

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-11 L-03 DRC-01 RSC-01

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R 041142Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5216

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3223

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID CB TH
SUBJECT: REQUIREMENTS FOR CAMBODIA PROGRAM SUPPORT

REF: A. BANGKOK 3523; B. ERNST/AMBASSADOR MEMO

FOR MOTT FROM OLMSTED

PASS USOM FOR ERNST FROM OLMSTED

1. APPRECIATE CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED IN REF A. BE ASSURED THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO UTILIZE AIRCRAFT FOR UNAUTHORIZED MOVEMENT OF COMMODITIES. WE INTEND TO COMPLY WITH ALL RTG REGULATIONS AND FORMALITIES. PASSENGERS ON CHARTER AIRCRAFT WOULD TAKE NO MORE LUGGAGE THAN THEY WOULD NOW BE PERMITTED TO TAKE ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULED AIR CARRIER AND SUCH LUGGAGE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME SCRUTINY WHICH IT WOULD BE IF THE EMPLOYEE WERE TRAVELLING ON AN INTERNATIONAL CARRIER. WITH REGARD TO SHIPMENT OF OTHER SUPPLIES, WE EXPECT THIS WILL BE HANDLED IN THE SAME WAY AS SUCH SHIPMENTS ARE HANDLED NOW ON SCHEDULED AIR CARRIERS OR ON SUCH CHARTER FLIGHTS WHICH WE HAVE ARRANGED FROM TIME TO TIME. CONSEQUENTLY SEE NO PROBLEM WITH PROCEDURES OUTLINED REF A.

2. IN BOTH REF A., PARA 4 AND IN REF B. THERE IS INTIMATION THAT RTG APPROVAL REMAINS PROBLEMATICAL. ON THE BASIS OF MOTT/OLMSTED CONVERSATION OF FEBRUARY 7, IN WHICH WE WERE ADVISED
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OF RTG INFORMAL FAVORABLE REACTION, WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT RTG APPROVAL WOULD BE OBTAINED. ALSO OUR PERSONNEL PLANNING AND OUR

PROGRAM OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN BASED ON THE ESTIMATE MADE IN THAT DISCUSSION, NAMELY WE COULD EXPECT FAVORABLE DECISION AROUND THE FIRST OF MARCH.

3. WE FACE A NUMBER OF URGENT AND CRITICAL PROBLEMS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT. IN ORDER TO ASSURE CAMBODIA'S ECONOMIC SURVIC), WE ARE INCREASING OUR PROGRAM EFFORTS IN SUCH AREAS AS AUGMENTING DOMESTIC CARGO MOVEMENT WITHIN CAMBODIA AS PART OF AN ANTI-INFLATION FIGHT, INSTITUTING NEW QUICK YIELDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO ASSURE SUFFICIENT FOOD SUPPLY IN PHNOM PENH IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WORKING WITH THE GKR ON BUDGETARY MATTERS TO ASSURE APPROPRIATE PRIORITY IN GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES, INCREASING OUR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT EFFORTS ON THE MEKONG CONVOY OPERATIONS, AND FURTHER STRENGTHENING OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT CRITICAL INFRA-STRUCTURE FACILITIES. ALL OF THESE ACTIVITIES REQUIRE INCREASED PERSONNEL AND MORE IMPORTANTLY REQUIRE THEM NOW. THE FOREGOING IS INTENDED BY WAY OF BACKGROUND TO HIGHLIGHT BOTH THE CRITICALITY AND THE URGENCY OF USG NEEDS IN CAMBODIA.

4. WITH REGARD TO REF B. COMMENT THAT SAIGON REPRESENTS AN ALTERNATIVE, SAIGON AS ALTERNATIVE WAS CONSIDERED AT GREAT LENGTH. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS IT WAS REJECTED AND TO RECONSIDER IT AGAIN AT THIS DATE WOULD PRESENT US WITH GRAVE DIFFICULTIES BOTH ON THE PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL SAIDES.

5. WITH REGARD FURTHER TO REF B. WE ARE AS ANXIOUS AS THE RTG TO NAIL DOWN ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED OFFICE. IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO IN THIS REGARD SUCH AS EITHER A WRITTEN STATEMENT, OR AN ORAL PRESENTATION BY ME, PLEASE BE ASSURED I AM READY TO UNDERTAKE EITHER AT SHORT NOTICE.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFLATION, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, AVIATION REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM03223
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740370/aaaacnfy.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BANGKOK 3523; B. ERNST/AMBASSADOR
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUIREMENTS FOR CAMBODIA PROGRAM SUPPORT
TAGS: EAID, CB, TH
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005